

MAKE THE CONNECTION. CLOSE THE CASE.

Supporting and stabilizing victims to enable case investigations and prosecutions

Collaboration between Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement

Most states now have their own laws criminalizing human trafficking, making this form of modern-day slavery a violation of not only international and federal law, but also state laws. As a result, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in particular U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), pursues collaborative investigations with other law enforcement agencies at the international, federal, state, local, county, and tribal level. We also work with those that have investigative authority, such as code inspectors, labor officials, and child welfare investigators. Our goal is to work with our law enforcement colleagues to protect and stabilize victims, prosecute offenders, and prevent additional human trafficking cases.

Working with Victims: A Victim-Centered Approach

A victim-centered approach places equal value on the identification and stabilization of victims and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Victims are crucial to investigations and prosecutions. Each case and every conviction changes lives. We understand how hard it can be for victims to come forward and work with law enforcement because of their trauma. They need help to feel stable, safe and secure.

A victim-centered approach to investigation and prosecution is essential to accomplish our law enforcement mission. To successfully conduct a human trafficking investigation and prosecution, you need a victim who can tell their story and testify as a witness. When you begin working with trafficking victims they may:

- Fear law enforcement
- Not identify themselves as a victim
- Not tell a complete story, or will use rehearsed responses
- Identify with the trafficker

These behaviors can be frustrating to deal with initially. It is crucial to understand **these behaviors are indicative of the level of control traffickers exert over victims**, and that victims need support and understanding in order to help you make the case investigation—and subsequent prosecution of the perpetrator—a success.

When you encounter a potential victim of trafficking in the course of your law enforcement duties, you can begin to develop rapport and establish trust by:

- Immediately connecting the victim to a victim specialist who can connect them to support services. Assistance is not tied to successful prosecution.
- Taking time to explain who you are, answer questions they might have, and acknowledge and address their fears.
- Being sensitive to cultural differences and language barriers. Use an interpreter when needed.
- Conducting interviews in a neutral location only after their needs have been assessed and any urgent needs have been met.
- Being patient and giving the victim time to stabilize and begin their recovery process.

Victim-Centered Resources

In addition to collaborating with you on investigations, DHS offers additional victim assistance programs and services. If you need assistance working with a victim or don't have resources available to you, or you want to connect a victim to services in your community we can help you. Contact the HSI Tipline (information on the back).

Victim Assistance Specialists – can help by connecting the victim to community-based groups to provide medical, mental health, legal assistance, case management, and other services. DHS has an emergency assistance fund, which is available for emergency victim assistance needs in the absence of other resources.

Forensic Interview Specialists – can conduct developmentally appropriate, legally defensible, and victim and culturally sensitive forensic interviews. If the victim is a child or extremely traumatized, these Forensic Interview Specialists can aid in your investigations.

Immigration Relief: A Critical Tool for Law Enforcement

Many foreign victims do not have legal status in the United States, which is a reason victims may not come forward to work with you. Traffickers also use victims' lack of legal status to exploit and control them. Immigration relief is a critical tool that helps you because it provides a way for victims to feel secure and stabilize their status in the United States. This means that victims can become strong and active participants in an investigation or prosecution.

Without legal status, victims may not be able to stay in the United States to continue working with you. DHS provides three types of immigration relief in order to encourage victims to come forward and work with you.

Continued Presence (CP) – is a form of short term immigration relief that you can request through your local ICE office (Call the HSI Tipline to get connected to an agent locally). CP allows potential witnesses to remain in the U.S. during an investigation. CP should be made available as soon as you identify a victim; the investigation does not have to be complete prior to requesting CP. If you later determine that the individual is not a victim, CP can be terminated.

T or U Nonimmigrant Status (T or U visa) – are longer term forms of immigration relief that the victim applies for through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), often with the assistance of a community advocate or attorney. The T visa is for human trafficking victims. The U visa is for victims of a variety of crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, involuntary servitude, and other serious offenses. Both require the victim to assist or cooperate with you in an investigation or prosecution (unless in T visa cases the victim is under 18, or suffers trauma).

Law Enforcement Declaration or Certification

Even though the victim, or the advocate or attorney completes the main portion of the T or U visa application, you play a role in telling USCIS how the victim has assisted you. The applicant may ask you to fill out a USCIS law enforcement declaration or certification form, which informs USCIS about the victim's in your case. For the T visa this is not required evidence. You can learn more at www.uscis.gov/humantrafficking. This form alone does not grant any immigration benefit. It is only one piece of evidence USCIS reviews before making a decision on an application. You always have discretion to complete a declaration or certification. USCIS requires additional evidence of eligibility and does a full background check. Only USCIS has the authority to grant or deny this immigration benefit.

Protect Yourself Protect Your Future

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Attorney General Bill Schuette



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Bill Schuette
Attorney General

Dear Michigan Senior,

As your Attorney General, I have heard countless stories of financial abuse against members of our senior population, ranging from sweepstakes scams to shady offers of home medical equipment and everything in between. Fast-talking telemarketers, phony charities, fly-by-night home repair contractors, and unscrupulous investment "advisors" are but a few examples of the many varieties of criminal predators who target seniors.

My policy is to prosecute companies and individuals that commit fraud against seniors, and many charges have been brought. But in order to prevent criminals from getting away with fraud, I need your help. Knowledge of how scams operate and vigilance in scrutinizing requests for money or personal information are the keys to stopping criminals before they make off with someone's savings or commit a fraud in someone else's name.

This Guide highlights many of the most common scams aimed at seniors. While criminals pitch their scams in many different forms, this Guide will help you to spot the common warning signs and empower you to protect yourself and your loved ones. This booklet also provides a variety of other information I hope you will find of value. This includes tips on protecting your personal information and reducing your exposure to identity theft, including directions for getting your name off unwanted telemarketing and junk mail lists and for exercising your right to receive free annual credit reports. The Guide also gives you advice on reviewing offers for living trusts, burial and funeral contracts, home improvements, investment products, and travel services.

The information and advice in this Guide is supplemented by other free publications of interest to consumers. You can view our consumer alerts online by visiting our website, www.michigan.gov/ag or by calling my Consumer Protection Division, toll-free, at 1-877-765-8388.

I urge you to read this Guide carefully - and to contact my office if you suspect a scam. Your report to my office may help put a crook behind bars.

Sincerely,

Bill Schuette
Attorney General

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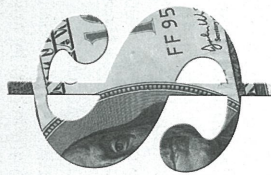
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CONSUMER SCAMS – AWARE AND AVOID!

1. General Consumer Scams

A Few Common Scams

Florence got a phone call from a man claiming to be an officer of her bank. He said he needed to verify her account information in order to install new security measures. Florence got her checkbook and read her account number to him. A few days later, when she was unable to withdraw money from her account, she discovered that all the money had been withdrawn. The caller had no connection to her bank at all, and her bank told her it never calls customers asking for "verification" of personal or financial information.

Florence fell for one of the oldest scams around. Con artists have sneaky ways of trying to part you from your money, but most of these are variations of "successful" scams that have been used before. Here are just a few examples of prevalent scams you may encounter:

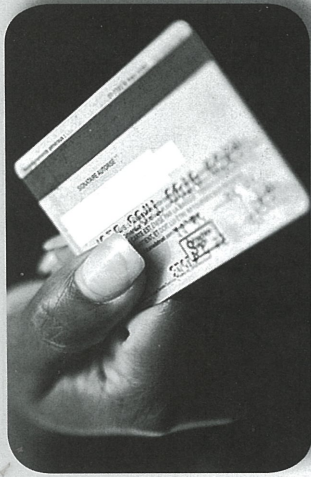
The Bank "Investigation":

In this scam, a caller poses as a bank examiner, FBI agent, or police detective and requests your help in an investigation. The caller asks you to go to the bank and withdraw some money and give it to the phony official to use in setting a trap for a criminal, assuring you that the money will be redeposited into your account. But the scammer and your money are never to be seen again.

Work-at-Home Offers:

Companies advertise opportunities for you to make hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a week working at home. The "work" could be just about anything – cashing checks, stuffing envelopes for advertisers, preparing mailing lists, making craft projects, or sending out medical bills. In the check cashing scenario, you may unwittingly be cashing checks you didn't know were bogus – until one of your checks is returned for "insufficient funds" in your account. Most

work-at-home scams require a stiff up-front fee – potentially hundreds of dollars – for supplies, software, or an "instructional kit" that will lead the way to a comfortable income. But the information or supplies you receive (if any) are worthless, and your "investment" is down the drain. If you have any luck reaching the company, you're told "it's your own fault" if you didn't make any money.



You can protect yourself against bogus business opportunities. Michigan law requires sellers of business opportunities to register with the Attorney General's office. There are also federal rules governing the types of disclosures that must be provided to consumers thinking about buying a business opportunity. The Attorney General urges consumers to research any potential business "opportunities" thoroughly before investing. Start by checking to see if the company peddling the business opportunity is registered in Michigan by calling the Attorney General's office at 1-877-765-8388. For more information on business opportunities and work-at-home scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov.

Credit Card "Fraud Protection" Scams:

A telephone caller pretending to represent your credit card company advises you to enroll in a credit card fraud protection program. The caller tells you that computer hackers could access your credit card number and run up thousands of dollars in bogus charges in your name – and warns you that you would be liable for all charges. This is a lie. Under federal law, consumers who

the money into your account. Careful! You are at risk of losing all the money in your bank account if you give the con artist your account information. If you receive such an offer through the U.S. mail, report it to the postal inspector. E-mail offers should simply be deleted.

Phishing:

You receive an e-mail message that appears to be from a familiar entity (i.e., your bank, government agency, credit card company) asking you to provide personal information such as your Social Security number (SSN), bank account number, password and/or personal identification number (PIN), or credit card number. This online form of identity theft is known as phishing and, like other forms of ID theft, can lead to substantial financial loss, ruined credit, prevention of account access, and the creation of bogus accounts in your name. To prevent this from happening to you, delete the e-mail without opening any attachments or clicking on any links in the message, and make sure to read the "Identity Theft" chapter of this guide.

What do these diverse examples have in common? They all carry warning signs that a fraud may be in the works. Keep your guard up when you encounter these three key signs of a potential fraud:

- You are contacted by a stranger;
- You are offered a "great" deal;
- You must act right away; and
- You are asked to pay money or disclose sensitive personal or financial information before receiving any benefit.

When you are contacted under these circumstances, just say "NO." And remember – NEVER provide personal information to ANYONE who calls you on the phone or sends an unsolicited e-mail request.

promptly report unauthorized charges on their credit cards are not liable for more than \$50. If you agreed to enroll in the "protection" program, your enrollment fee and perhaps account information have landed with a scammer.

Advance-Fee Loan and Credit Card Scams:

An e-mail, telemarketer, newspaper ad, or TV commercial "guarantees" that consumers can get a loan or a credit card "no matter how bad" their credit history may be. But consumers who respond are advised they must pay a hefty fee up front – perhaps as much as \$500 – only to find out later that despite the guarantee, you didn't qualify for the loan or credit card after all. You are unable to get in touch with the company and are out the money you paid.

International Lottery Scams:

You receive an e-mail, letter, or phone call from a business offering to buy tickets for you in a foreign lottery, perhaps in Spain, Canada, or Australia. These offers are always scams. It is against U.S. law to buy or sell tickets to foreign lotteries by phone or mail. Consumers who fall for these scams sometimes get "suckered" two or three times. If you agree to send money to buy tickets, you may get a call later saying that you have won a large jackpot, and need to send more money to pay taxes on your winnings or to pay a small fee for currency conversion. Of course, the lottery tickets were never even purchased, and there is no jackpot.

Foreign Dignitary Schemes:

Also referred to in news reports as the "Nigerian Letter Scam," this fraud starts with a letter, fax, or e-mail from someone who claims to be a foreign government executive, prince, diplomat, or doctor. This person says he needs to transfer a large amount of money, perhaps millions of dollars, to the United States in order to protect the money from insurgents or corrupt government officials. The letter offers to pay you a percentage commission if you permit the person to transfer